

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04960 201646Z
ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4960

PASS S/IL MR BOWIE2)IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES AND DALLEY
LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL AND ILAB

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE - ARTICLE 17 AND STRUCTURE

REF: GENEVA 4906

1. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT COVERS EVENTS THROUGH JUNE 19.
IMEC MEETING IN AFTERNOON JUNE 17 DECIDED THAT DIRECT
NEGOTIATIONS WITH G-77 WERE NO LONGER USEFUL IN LIGHT
OF BRUSQUE G-77 REJECTION OF MAINWARING PROPOSAL ON
ARTICLE 17 AND REAFFIRMATION OF SUBSTANCE OF THEIR
RESOLUTION (REFTEL) CONSENSUS IN IMEC WAS THAT ACTION
ON ARTICLE 17 WAS UNLIKELY AT THIS SESSION OF ILC. ILO
DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD WAS ASKED TO ACT AS AN
INTERMEDIARY WITH A NEW PROPOSAL (SEE PARA 3 BELOW),
LOOKING FORWARD TO ACTION ON ARTICLE 17 AT 1978 SESSION
OF ILC. BLANCHARD WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN HIS APPROACHES TO
G-77. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 04960 201646Z

2. IMEC MET IN LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 17 TO CONSIDER
RESPONSE TO STRONG G-77 POSITION REPORTED REFTEL. THERE
WAS GENERAL CHAGRIN AND INDIGNATION AT THE HARDLINE
TAKEN BY G-77, ESPECIALLY BY ITS REJECTION OF MAINWARING'S
PROPOSAL AND BY THE DISDAINFUL AND PROVOCATIVE
MANNER OF EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN. MAINWARING REPEATED HIS

INTENTION TO INTRODUCE HIS PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT SITTING OF THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE (SEE REFTTEL, SO THAT IT WOULD APPEAR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE PLENARY (STRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETS ON MORNING ON JUNE 20). VELDKAMP (NETHERLANDS) SUGGESTED THAT IF G-77 PERSISTED IN ITS HARDLINE THAT IMEC STATE INTENTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE MEETINGS OF WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE (NOT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BUT WORKING PARTY WHOSE MANDATE CONFERENCE MAY EXTEND UNTIL 78 CONFERENCE). HOROWITZ URGED IMEC TO MOVE MAINWARING PROPOSAL TO VOTE BUT WAS SUPPORTED ONLY BY AUSTRAL. UK AND BELGIUM REPS SAID VOTE WAS SURE TO BE NEGATIVE AND WOULD KILL PRINCIPLE OF ARTICLE 17 OR AT LEAST MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO REINTRODUCE IT AT FUTURE ILC'S.

3. AGO (ITALY) SAID MAJORITY OF G-77 DO NOT WANT ACTION ON ARTICLE 17 AT THIS ILC SESSION AND WISH TO USE ARTICLE 17 IN EXCHANGE FOR CONCESSIONS ON STRUCTURE. HE SAID NEGATIVE VOTE ON ARTICLE 17 IN EFFECT WOULD REJECT PRINCIPLE OF NO CONDEMNATION WITHOUT INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER WITHDRAWAL OF IMEC REPRESENTATIVES FROM STRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND/OR WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE WOULD BE TAKEN BY G-77 AS REJECTION OF THEIR "OFFER" (I.E. IN THEIR RESOLUTION) AND CREATE THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT IMEC HAD REJECTED THE G-77 POSITION WHEN IN FACT IT WAS EXACTLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND. AGO SAID WITHDRAWAL
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 04960 201646Z

FROM PARTICIPATION IN STRUCTURE DISCUSSIONS WAS A LAST RESORT FOR IMEC. AGO SUGGESTED MODERATE G-77 MEMBERS BE PRRSUADED TO AGREE THAT STRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT TO PLENARY CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING: (1) NOTE LACK OF CONSENSUS ON AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 THIS YEAR; (2) REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF NO CONDEMNATION WITHOUT INVESTIGATION; (3) INSTRUCT DG TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE UNDER PRESENT VERSION OF ARTICLE 17; AND (4) AGREE TO MODIFICATION OF OPERATIVE PARA 2 OF G-77 RESOLUTION. IF G-77 REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, THEN IMEC COULD ANNOUNCE NONPARTICIPATION IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF STRUCTURE PROBLEMS.

4. GIST OF OTHER IMEC REPRESENTATIVES (FRG FRENCH, AUSTRALIA) COMMENTS WAS THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO RESPOND "IN ANGER" OR TO FORCE ARTICLE 17 ISSUE TO A VOTE. HOROWITZ RESERVED US POSITION ON VOTE AND SAID WE COULD NOT GO ALONG WITH ANY "AGREEMENT AT ANY PRICE" WITH THE G-77. HE AGREED DG MIGHT SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY DURING THE WEEKEND IN A RESPONSE TO FRENCH, HOROWITZ SAID EVEN NEGATIVE VOTE ON ARTICLE 17 COULD LEAD TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE MANY MEMBERS OF G-77 WOULD

ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLE OF NO CONDEMNATION WITHOUT INVESTIGATION WHEN THEY EXPLAINED THEIR VOTE. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN QUESTION OF HOW NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD AFFECT USG DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP IN ILO, HOROWITZ SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR WASHINGTON BUT ONE ELEMENT IN THE EVALUATION IS THAT "NO ACTION IS AN ANSWER".

5. DG'S WEEKEND EFFORTS WERE LARGELY WITH AMBASSADORS OF EGYPT, MEXICO, AND SRI LANKA. AS OF SUNDAY EVENING (JUNE 19) DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL GOING ON BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. SORENSON

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